

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00616 111418Z

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1875

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0616

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FOR FRED IKLE FROM STANLEY RESOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: TABLING REVISED DATA

1. RE YOUR MESSAGE STATE 301518, I BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TWO QUITE DIFFERENT TOPICS IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE DELETION OF THE FRENCH FORCES IN THE FRG FROM WESTERN DATA.

2. THE FIRST IS THE ISSUE OF THE OPERATION OF THE COMMON CEILING AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT WOULD BE DONE IN THE EVENT OF POSSIBLE FUTURE INCREASES IN FRENCH FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. THE VIEW OF THE PARTICIPATING ALLIES IS THAT SUCH INCREASES SHOULD BE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN THE OPERATION OF THE COMMON CEILING. THIS IS THE TOPIC WHICH IS TREATED IN TALKING POINT B AND WHICH WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE FRENCH AND WHICH IS THE CONCEPT THEY REFUSED TO ENDORSE. WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN MENTIONING THIS TOPIC. IF ASKED, WE WOULD SAY ONLY THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE WESTERN APPROACH ON THIS TOPIC. THIS TREATMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FACT THAT NEITHER THE PARTICIPANTS NOR THE FRENCH HAVE MODIFIED THEIR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. PRESUMABLY THE FRENCH WILL NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES CONSTRAINED FROM SO STATING TO THE SOVIETS IF ASKED. SIMILARLY, THE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRAINED IF ASKED. FAILURE OF WESTERN NEGOTIATORS TO RESPOND IN ANY WAY WOULD INDICATE THAT THE WEST HAS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00616 111418Z

INDEED CHANGED ITS POSITION.

3. THERE IS A SECOND SUBJECT WHICH AS FAR AS WE KNOW WAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH THE FRENCH IN CONNECTION WITH THE GUIDANCE AND ON WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION. THAT SUBJECT IS HOW TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECTS OF DELETION OF THE FRENCH FORCES FROM THE WESTERN TOTAL IN CALCULATING WESTERN REDUCTIONS. UNLESS WE ADDRESS THIS TOPIC WHEN TABLING WESTERN DATA WHICH OMITTS THE APPROXIMATELY 60,000 FRENCH FORCES IN THE FRG, THE EAST COULD EASILY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE DISPARITY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN REDUCTIONS NECESSARY TO REACH THE COMMON CEILING WILL INCREASE BY 60,000 MEN, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THAT THE WEST EITHER PROPOSES TO SUBTRACT 60,000 MEN FROM ITS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED REDUCTIONS AND TO REDUCE FROM A WESTERN LEVEL OF 731,000 TO A 700,000 COMMON CEILING OR TO DROP THE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING BY 60,000 THUS ADDING 60,000 MEN TO EASTERN REDUCTIONS TO REACH THAT COMMON CEILING. IF THIS INTERPRETATION IS NOT EXCLUDED IN AN AUTHORITATIVE WAY WHEN WESTERN DATA IS TABLED AND EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES RETURN TO CAPITOLS WITH THIS INTERPRETATION IN MIND, THIS CIRCUMSTANCE WOULD CAUSE THE EASTERN REACTION TO THE DELETION OF THE FRENCH TO BE FAR MORE NEGATIVE THAN IT NEED BE. IT COULD RESULT IN EASTERN STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS DURING THE RECESS WHICH WOULD BRING THE FRENCH ISSUE INTO THE PUBLIC.

4. THE ISSUE OF DEALING WITH THE DELETION OF THE FRENCH IN CALCULATING WESTERN REDUCTIONS IS THE SUBJECT ADDRESSED IN THE TALKING POINTS I READ TO LEON SLOSS ON DECEMBER 10. THESE TALKING POINTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMALLY TENTATIVELY APPROVED BY THE UK FOREIGN OFFICE AND BY FRED RUTH IN BONN. RESOR

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